

Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A system for enabling enforcement of written software licensing terms for a software product for use with a computer having a set of hardware components, the system comprising:

a software product resident on the computer, the software product having an associated product ID and generating a hardware ID that identifies the set of hardware components, the software product sending the product ID and hardware ID to an activation authority remote from the computer, wherein the hardware ID is a 64-bit hardware ID that identifies a set of ten hardware components within the computer;

an activation unit at the activation authority, the activation unit computing a license file from the product ID and hardware ID, the activation unit returning the license file to the software product; and

the software product storing the license file locally on the computer.

2. (Withdrawn) The system recited in claim 1, wherein the activation unit hashes a concatenation of the product ID and the hardware ID to derive the license file.

3. (Withdrawn) The system recited in claim 1, wherein the activation unit stores the product ID, hardware ID and license file.

4. (Withdrawn) The system recited in claim 1, wherein the software product is subsequently launched following installation, the software product retrieves the 64-bit hardware ID and compares the hardware ID to the set of hardware components on the computer, wherein if a suitable match occurs, the software product is enabled to operate on the computer; otherwise, if a suitable match does not occur, the software product is locked and prevented from operating on the computer.

5. (Withdrawn) The system recited in claim 4 wherein a suitable match comprises at least seven out of the ten hardware components identified by the hardware ID are found in the set of hardware components on the computer.

6. (Withdrawn) The system recited in claim 5 wherein the 64-bit hardware ID is retrieved from the license file.

7. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 6 wherein the hardware ID is retrieved from the license file by hashing the license file.

8. (Previously Presented) A single computer system ID for identifying a computer system, the computer system comprising a plurality of components, each component having a unique identifier, wherein the single computer-system ID is stored on the computer system and is generated during the installation of a software product on the computer system, wherein the single computer system ID comprises a plurality of hardware device identifier portions, each hardware device identifier portion associated with a single component of the computer system wherein the single computer system ID represents the computer system plurality of components and wherein the single computer system ID comprises a variable number of bits corresponding to the ability to differentiate multiple computer systems based on a particular component having a unique identifier, wherein the particular component is one of the plurality of components.

9. (Previously Presented) The single computer system ID of claim 8 wherein the plurality of hardware device identifier portions identifying a plurality of hardware devices comprises at least two members of a group comprising:

- a CD-ROM device portion identifying a CD-ROM device of the computer system;
- a disk adapter portion identifying a disk adapter of the computer system;
- a disk device portion identifying a disk device of the computer system;
- a display adapter portion identifying a display adapter of the computer system;
- a first drive serial portion identifying a disk drive of the computer system;
- a MAC address portion identifying a MAC address of the computer system;
- a processor serial number portion identifying a processor serial number of the computer system;
- a processor type portion identifying a processor type of the computer system;
- a RAM size portion identifying a RAM size of the computer system; and
- a SCSI adapter portion identifying a SCSI adapter of the computer system.

10. (Previously Presented) The single computer system ID of claim 9 wherein the CD-ROM device portion comprises a hashing of a CD-ROM device identification string.

11. (Previously Presented) The single computer system ID of claim 9 wherein the disk adapter portion comprises a hashing of disk adapter peripheral component interface (PCI) vendor and device identifications.

12. (Previously Presented) The single computer system ID of claim 9 wherein the disk device portion comprises a hashing of a disk device identification string.

13. (Previously Presented) The single computer system ID of claim 9 wherein the display adapter portion comprises a hashing of video adapter PCI vendor and device identifications.

14. (Previously Presented) The single computer system ID of claim 9 wherein the first drive serial portion comprises a hashing of an operating system assigned serial number of a first partition.

15. (Previously Presented) The single computer system ID of claim 9 wherein the MAC address portion comprises a hardware address of a network interface connecting the computer system to a shared network.

16. (Previously Presented) The single computer system ID of claim 9 wherein the processor serial number portion comprises an identification of the manufacturer's serial number for the processor of the computer system.

17. (Previously Presented) The single computer system ID of claim 9 wherein the RAM size portion comprises the size of the RAM in the computer system in megabytes.

18. (Previously Presented) The single computer system ID of claim 9 wherein the SCSI adapter portion comprises an identification of the Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) adapter of the computer system.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for enabling enforcement of software licensing terms for a software product for use with a computer comprising a set of hardware components, the method comprising the steps of:

- retrieving a hardware identification, wherein the hardware identification comprises identifiers for a plurality of hardware components of a licensed computer;
- comparing the plurality of hardware components identified by the hardware identification to a plurality of hardware components of the computer;
- determining a number of matches between the plurality of hardware components identified by the hardware identification and the plurality of hardware components of the computer;

determining whether the number of matches exceeds a predetermined minimum number of matches; and

if so, then determining that the computer is the same computer as the licensed computer.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 further comprising the steps of: if it is determined that the computer is the same computer as the licensed computer, then allowing the software product to fully operate on the computer.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20 further comprising the steps of: if it is determined the number of matches does not exceed a predetermined minimum number of matches, then causing the software product to operate on the computer in a reduced functionality mode.

22. (Withdrawn) A computer system ID for identifying a computer system, wherein the computer system ID is stored on the computer system and is generated during the installation of a single software application on the computer system, wherein the computer system ID comprises at least two members of a group comprising:

- a CD-ROM device portion identifying a CD-ROM device of the computer system;
- a disk adapter portion identifying a disk adapter of the computer system;
- a disk device portion identifying a disk device of the computer system;
- a display adapter portion identifying a display adapter of the computer system;
- a first drive serial portion identifying a disk drive of the computer system;
- a MAC address portion identifying a MAC address of the computer system;
- a processor serial number portion identifying a processor serial number of the computer system;
- a processor type portion identifying a processor type of the computer system;
- a RAM size portion identifying a RAM size of the computer system; and
- a SCSI adapter portion identifying a SCSI adapter of the computer system,

wherein the computer system ID is generated during the installation of a single software product on the computer system.

23. (Withdrawn) The computer system ID of claim 22 wherein the computer system ID includes the disk adapter portion, the disk adapter portion comprising a hashing of disk adapter peripheral component interface (PCI) vendor and device identifications.

24. (Withdrawn) The computer system ID of claim 22 wherein the computer system ID includes the disk device portion, the disk device portion comprising a hashing of a disk device identification string.

25. (Withdrawn) The computer system ID of claim 22 wherein the computer system ID includes the display adapter portion, the display adapter portion comprising a hashing of a video adapter PCI vendor and device identification.

26. (Withdrawn) The computer system ID of claim 22 wherein the computer system ID includes the first drive serial portion, the first drive serial portion comprises a hashing of an operating system assigned serial number of a first partition.